

## Matthew Chapter 4

### The Beginning of Jesus' Public Ministry

#### A. The Temptation of Jesus (Matthew 4:1-11)

##### **Matthew 4:1-11 MSG**

**[1-3] Next Jesus was taken into the wild by the Spirit for the Test. The Devil was ready to give it. Jesus prepared for the Test by fasting forty days and forty nights. That left him, of course, in a state of extreme hunger, which the Devil took advantage of in the first test: "Since you are God's Son, speak the word that will turn these stones into loaves of bread." [4] Jesus answered by quoting Deuteronomy: "It takes more than bread to stay alive. It takes a steady stream of words from God's mouth." [5-6] For the second test, the Devil took him to the Holy City. He sat him on top of the Temple and said, "Since you are God's Son, jump." The Devil goaded him by quoting Psalm 91: "He has placed you in the care of angels. They will catch you so that you won't so much as stub your toe on a stone." [7] Jesus countered with another citation from Deuteronomy: "Don't you dare test the Lord your God." [8-9] For the third test, the Devil took him to the peak of a huge mountain. He gestured expansively, pointing out all the earth's kingdoms, how glorious they all were. Then he said, "They're yours—lock, stock, and barrel. Just go down on your knees and worship me, and they're yours." [10] Jesus' refusal was curt: "Beat it, Satan!" He backed his rebuke with a third quotation from Deuteronomy: "Worship the Lord your God, and only him. Serve him with absolute single-heartedness." [11] The Test was over. The Devil left. And in his place, angels! Angels came and took care of Jesus' needs.**

**Setting: Wilderness after His baptism.**

**Key Points:**

- **Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness.**
- **He fasted forty days and was tempted by the Devil.**
- **The beginning of Jesus' ministry.**
- **Jesus calls four disciples**
- **Jesus heals the sick**

**Three Temptations:**

1. Turn stones into bread (**physical needs**) - {Vs. 3}
2. Jump from the temple ( **pride and testing God**) - {Vss. 5-6}
3. Worship Satan for all the kingdoms (**Shortcut to glory**) - {Vss. 8-9}
  - a. Jesus responded each time with the Scripture ("It is written...")  
{Vs.10}

**Life application:**

- Temptations often come after Spiritual highs.
- **Victory** after temptations comes from **standing on God's word.**

**Jesus, the tempted one:**

Matthew 4:1 (KJV) Then Jesus led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

The temptation of Jesus by Satan was an attempt to entice Him from the pathway of perfect obedience to the will of God.

What can we learn from the temptation of Christ?

### **Fasted forty days**

Matthew 4:2 (KJV) And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred.

1. Satan is our greatest enemy! As Christians, we must be aware that we are engaged in a spiritual warfare with unseen but very real spiritual powers of evil.

Consider: Ephesians 6:12 AMP

[12] For our struggle is not against flesh and blood [contending only with physical opponents], but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this [present] darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly (supernatural) places.

Christians face a spiritual conflict with Satan and a host of evil spirits.

A. *These powers of darkness are the spiritual rulers of the world*

*[ Jn. 12:31; 2 Cor. 4:4; 1 Jn.5:19) **who energize the ungodly** (2:2), **oppose God's will** (Gen. 3:1-7; Dan. 10:12-13; Mat.13:38-39), **and frequently attack believers of this age** (1Pet. 5:8).*

B. *They constitute a vast multitude (Rev.12:4,7) and are organized into a highly systematized empire of evil with rank and order (2:2; Jn. 14:30).*

2. Without the Holy Spirit and the proper use of God's word, the Christian can not overcome sin and temptation.

The following are suggestions on how to use God's Word in overcoming temptation:

- A. Realize that through the Word you have the power to resist any appeal Satan can make [Jn. 15:3,7].
- B. Engraft {memorize} the Word of God into your soul and mind [Jas. 1:21].
- C. Meditate day and night on the verses you have memorized [Deut. 6:6; Ps.1:2].
- D. Say the memorized passage to yourself and God **the instant** you are tempted [vv. 4, 7, 10].
- E. Recognize and obey the prompting of the Holy Spirit to obey God's Word [Rom. 8:12-14; Gal.5:18].
- F. Surround all these steps with prayer [Eph. 6:18].

One essential feature of Jesus' temptation revolved around what kind of Messiah He would be and how He would use God's anointing.

- 1. Jesus was tempted to use His anointing and position to serve His self-interest, to obtain glory and honor over the nations **instead** of accepting the cross and the way of suffering, and to accommodate Himself to **the popular expectation** of the people for a sensational Messiah.
- 2. Satan still tempts Christian leaders to use their anointing, position, and ability for their own self-interest, to establish their own glory and kingdom, and to please people rather than God. Those who selfishly compromise with Satan have, in reality, surrendered to the lordship of Satan.

During the forty-day fast, it is reasonable to assume that he was preparing himself by means of prayer and meditation on God's Word for the work the Father had sent Him to do.

**Temptation #1 Turn stones into bread (*physical needs*)** - {Vs. 3}

Matthew 4:3 (AMPC) And the tempter came and said to Him, If You are God's Son, command these stones to be made [loaves of] bread. [4] But He replied, **It has been written, Man shall not live and be upheld and sustained by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.**

**Temptation #2 Jump from the temple (*pride and testing God*)** - {Vss. 5-6}

Matthew 4:5-6 KJV

[5] Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, [6] and saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: And in their hands they shall bear thee up, Lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

Satan uses the Word of God to tempt Christ to sin. At times, worldly people will use scripture in an attempt to persuade a believer to do something they know is wrong or unwise.

Some scripture, when taken out of context or not compared with other passages of God's Word, may even condone sinful behavior (1 Corn. 6:12). Believers must know God's word thoroughly and beware of those who pervert the Scriptures in order to fulfill the desires of the sinful human nature.

The Apostle speaks of those who distort the Scripture to their own destruction (2 Pet. 3:16).

Matthew 4:7 ESV

[7] Jesus said to him, **“Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’”**

**Temptation #3 Worship Satan for all the kingdoms (Shortcut to glory) - {Vss. 8-9}**

Matthew 4:8-9 ESV

[8] Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. [9] And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.”

Jesus rejects Satan’s offer of dominion over all the kingdoms of the world.

1. Jesus’s kingdom in this age is not a kingdom of this world (Jn. 18:36-37).

He refuses to seek a kingdom for Himself by the worldly methods of compromise, earthly power, political maneuvering, external violence, human rule, popularity, honor, and glory.

2. Jesus’s kingdom is a spiritual kingdom, ruling in the hearts of His people who have been taken out of the kingdom of the world. As a heavenly kingdom:
  - a. It is gained through suffering, self-denial, humility, and meekness
  - b. It requires giving our bodies as a living and holy sacrifice (Rom 12:1), in complete devotion and obedience to God
  - c. It involves struggling with spiritual weapons against sin, temptation, and Satan (Eph. 6:10-20)
  - d. It means resisting being conformed to this world (Rom 12:2)

Matthew 4:10 ESV

[10] Then Jesus said to him, **“Be gone, Satan! For it is written, “You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.”**

And Jesus responded each time with the Scripture ( **“It is written...”**)

**SATAN:** Satan ( in Hebrew, means “an adversary”)

Was a great angel created perfect and good.

He was appointed to be a minister at the throne of God; yet sometime before the world began, he rebelled and became the chief antagonist of God and man ( Ezek. 28;12-15).

1. In his rebellion against God, Satan drew with him a great multitude of lesser angels (Rev. 12:4), who are probably to be identified, after their fall, with demons or evil spirits. Satan and many of these lesser angels were exiled to the earth and the atmosphere around it, and operate within this sphere under the permissive will of God.
2. Satan, also called “the serpent,” caused the fall of the human race (Gen 3:1-6).
3. Satan's kingdom (12:26) is a highly systemized empire of evil which has authority over the lower heavenly realm (Eph. 2:2), fallen angels (Rev. 12:7), unregenerate humanity (Jn. 12:31; Eph. 2:2), and the world (Lk. 4:5-6). He is not omnipresent, omnipotent, or omniscient, hence, most of his activity is delegated to demons (Rev. 16: 13-14).
4. Jesus came to earth to destroy the works of Satan (1Jn. 3:8), establish the kingdom of God, and deliver us from Satan' dominion (Lk. 4:18; Acts 26:18). By His death and resurrection, Christ initiated the defeat of Satan and thereby ensured God's ultimate victory over him (Heb. 2:14).
5. At the end of the age, Satan is to be confined to the abyss for a thousand years (Rev. 20:1-3). After his release, he will make a final attempt to overthrow God; this will result in Satan's final defeat and his being cast into the lake of fire (Rev.20:7-10).

6. Satan presently wars against God and His people (Job 1-2; Eph. 6:11-18), seeking to draw them away from loyalty to Christ (2Cor. 11:3); and into sin and this present world system (1 Tim. 5:15; 1Jn.5:16). The believer is to pray constantly for deliverance from Satan (Mt. 6:13), to be on alert concerning his schemes and temptations (Eph. 6:11), and to resist him by spiritual warfare while remaining firm in the faith (Eph. 6:10-18; 1Pt. 5:8-9).

### **The beginning of Jesus' ministry.**

#### **Matthew 4:12-25 ESV**

**[12] Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. [13] And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, [14] so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: [15] “The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— [16] the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.” [17] From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” [18] While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. [19] And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” [20] Immediately they left their nets and followed him. [21] And going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. [22] Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. [23] And he went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.**



**[24] So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, those having seizures, and paralytics, and he healed them. [25] And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.**

This section of Matthew, then, is topical rather than chronological. Matthew records the Sermon on the Mount, the parables of the Kingdom, Jesus' teaching on forgiveness, and parables about the end of the age.

(Vss. 12-13)

Jesus moved from Nazareth, his hometown, to Capernaum, about 20 miles farther north. Capernaum became Jesus' home base during his ministry in Galilee.

His move was probably:

1. To get away from the intense opposition in Nazareth
2. To have an impact on the greatest number of people (Capernaum was a busy city, and Jesus' message could meet more people and spread more quickly)
3. To utilize extra resources and support for his ministry.

Jesus' move fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah 9:1-2, which states that the Messiah will be a light in the land of Zebulun and Naphtali, the region of Galilee where Capernaum was located.

(Vss. 14-16)

By quoting from the book of Isaiah, Matthew continues to tie Jesus's ministry to the Old Testament. This was helpful for his Jewish listeners, who were familiar with these Scriptures. In addition, it shows the unity in God's purposes as he works with his people throughout all ages.

(Vs. 17)

The “Kingdom of heaven” has the same meaning as “ The kingdom of God” in Mark and Luke. Matthew uses this phrase because the Jews, out of their intense reverence and respect, did not pronounce God’s name. The kingdom of heaven is still near because it has arrived in our hearts.

**(Vs 3:2) “Repent ye: for the (Kingdom of heaven) is at hand”**

*The Kingdom of Heaven began when God himself entered human history as a man.*

*Today Jesus Christ reigns in the hearts of believers, but the Kingdom of Heaven will not be fully realized until all evil in the world will be judged and removed.*

*Christ came to earth as a suffering servant; he will come again as king and judge to rule victorious over all the earth.*

Jesus started his ministry with the very words people had heard John the Baptist say: “Repent”. This message is the same today as when Jesus and John gave it.

Becoming a follower of Christ means turning away from our self-centeredness and “self” control and turning our lives over to Christ’s direction and control.

### **Jesus calls four disciples**

V18.) And Jesus walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.

(Vss. 18-20)

These men had already met Jesus. He had talked to Peter and Andrew previously

(Jn. 1:35-42) and had been preaching in the area. When Jesus called them, they knew what kind of man he was and were willing to follow him. Jesus told Peter and Andrew to leave their fishing business and become “fishers of men,” to help others find God.

Jesus was calling them from their productive trade to be productive spiritually.

We all need to fish for souls. If we practice Christ's teaching and share the gospel with others, we will be able to draw those around us to Christ like a fisherman who pulls fish into his boat with nets.

(Vss. 21-22)

James and his brother, John, along with Peter and Andrew were the first disciples Jesus called to work with him. Jesus' call motivated these men to get up and leave their jobs immediately. They didn't make excuses about why it wasn't a good time. They left at once and followed Jesus.

Jesus calls each of us to follow him. When Jesus asks us to serve him, we must be like the disciples and do it at once.

### **Jesus heals the sick**

*Jesus was teaching, preaching, and healing.*

*These were the three main aspects of his ministry.*

1. Teaching shows Jesus's concern for understanding
2. Preaching shows his concern for commitment
3. Healing shows his concern for wholeness

*His miracles of healing authenticated his teaching and preaching, showing that he truly was from God.*

(Vs. 23) And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.

*Jesus soon developed a powerful preaching ministry and often preached in the synagogue.*

*Most towns that had 10 or more Jewish families had a synagogue. The building served as a religious gathering place on the Sabbath and as a school during the week.*

*The leader of the synagogue was not as much a preacher as an administrator.*

*His job was to find and invite rabbis to teach and preach.*

Matthew 4:24 AMP

[24] So the news about Him spread throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all who were sick, those suffering with various diseases and pains, those under the power of demons, and epileptics, paralytics; and He healed them.

*Jesus preached the Gospel, the good news, to everyone who wanted to hear it.*

*The Gospel is that the Kingdom of heaven has come, that God is with us, and that he cares for us.*

*Christ can heal us, not just of physical sickness, but of spiritual sickness as well. There's no sin or problem too great or too small for him to handle.*

*Jesus's words were good news because they offered freedom, hope, peace of heart, and eternal life with God.*

Vs.25

Matthew 4:25 AMP

[25] Large crowds followed Him from Galilee and the Decapolis and Jerusalem and Judea, and the other side of the Jordan.

*Decapolis was a league of 10 Gentile towns east of the Sea of Galilee, joined together for better trade and mutual defense.*

***The word about Jesus was out, and Jews and Gentiles were coming long distances to hear him.***

**Rhema Christian Center**

**Triumphant Tuesday Bible Study**

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**Eddie Poindexter: Teacher**

**References:**

**Bibles: Usage of notes and Bible helps,**

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